GAS.—The Folkestone Gas Company have decided to reduce the price of their gas 1s. a thousand cubic feet, and to erect another gasometer forthwith.——The Newbury Company, according to a local correspondent of the *Reading Mercury*, have resolved to reduce their price 20 per cent. to all consumers to the extent of 20*l.* per annum; 10 per cent. to all consumers to the amount of 10*l.*; and 5 per cent. to 5*l.* consumers, and so on—an arrangement which may satisfy the *few*, but will be contemptible in the estimation of the *many*—the really "large" consumers, whose interest the company would do well to consult. Even on this new sliding scale, it is their own chairman almost exclusively, it appears, who will get his gas so *low* as 8s. per 1000 feet, a price not only exorbitant in itself, but beyond that charged in surrounding towns. If the company would increase their 5 per cent. dividend, they must slide considerably farther downwards on their new scale of prices——The Hartlepool Gas and Water Company has declared a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. "After leather," adds a commentator, "commend us to gas and water!"——The Over-Darwen Gas Company have recently announced a dividend of 7 per cent.——At the Grantham gas-works a new gas-holder of a capacity of 50,000 feet, has been erected. The old one, which will contain only 20,000 is also retained. A new main pipe of 10 inches in diameter is being laid down.——At a large meeting of gas consumers at Gravesend lately, it was resolved to request the local commissioners of lamps and pavements to grant permission to the Northfleet Gas Company to lay down mains, &c. The towns people, it appears, complain both of the dearness and the badness of the gas supplied to them.——At the annual meeting of the Rotherham gas company, on Thursday week, a dividend of ten per cent. was declared on the paid-up capital of 6,100*l.* and a further dividend of five per cent. on the 800*l.* called up about six months ago.——A joint-stock company has been formed in Whithorn for lighting that town with gas. The required capital has been subscribed.

THE LATE MR. ARCHBUTT'S PICTURES.—In another column an advertisment will be found of the sale by auction by Mr. Frederick Godwin (Halkin-terrace), of the pictures and works of art belonging to the late Mr. Archbutt. As the pictures deserve attention, and he was well known to many of our readers, they may be glad to have their attention drawn to the circumstance.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AT RYDE.—The rate-payers have voted 265 against to 224 in favour of the introduction of the Act at Ryde. The minority are the majority in amount of assessment, and are supported by the medical profession, the clergy, gentry, majority of town commissioners, and principal tradesmen. Is not something like a *central* authority requisite here to counteract the local influence and "self-government" of a majority in favour of dirt and disease? Mr. Ranger is to hold a further inquiry in a short time, after which the General Board will decide upon the necessity or otherwise of the application of the Act to this town.

FIRE IN A ROYAL DWELLING.—The palace of Rheinardsbrunn, the favourite residence of the Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha, brother of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, was accidentally burned to the ground on the night of 14th ult. The edifice was situated in one of the most charming spots of the Thuringian Forest, and occupied the site of an ancient monastery. It was not long since built at a great cost, in the old German style, and contained treasures of art and antiquity of untold value.

NEW VESTRY HALL FOR LAMBETH.—The ratepayers have resolved, by a majority of 2,365 to 1,610, to erect a new vestry hall.

EXTENSION OF BLACKWALL RAILWAY TO HAYDON-SQUARE.—With some exception, we hear, the passage of the new extension line of rail from the Blackwall line to Haydon-square is already opened up, and in little more than a month it is thought the whole will be ready for traffic.

THE KENILWORTH BUFFET, designed by Messrs. Cookes and Son, of Warwick, for the Great Exhibition, has been presented to Lord Brooke in commemoration of his lordship's marriage, and "as a token of the respect and esteem of his friends in the town and county of Warwick." The buffet was purchased for 1,200*l.*

GIFT TO AN ARCHITECT.—The members of the Lord-street Reading-oom at Carlisle invited the architect of their new building, Mr. Hogg, to a supper-party under the auspices of the building committee, and presented him with a handsome chased silver snuff-box, as a memorial of their estimation of his services.

MRS. DAMER, THE SCULPTOR.—We inadvertently admitted a note of a correspondent (G. W. B.), in a recent number, stating that the statue of Sir Joseph Banks in the British Museum was by Mrs. Damer. The statue in question is by Chantrey. There is a statue of Mrs. Damer in the British Museum, which probably led to the mistake.

ART-UNION OF LONDON DISTRIBUTION.—The annual distribution of the London Art-Union will take place on Tuesday, the 27th inst. in the Lyceum Theatre, Strand, very kindly placed at the council's disposal by Mr. Charles Mathews. Lord Monteagle will preside. The subscription, we are glad to hear, is satisfactory.

MOTIVE POWER.—A method of obtaining and applying motive power by counterbalance weights, so arranged as to counterbalance each other during the return stroke of the engine, and thereby to require little or no expenditure of power in returning to their original working positions, has been patented by Mr. Faulkener, of Cheadle.

METROPOLITAN SEWERS COMMISSION.—On Saturday last a meeting was held at Greek-street, Soho, when tenders for work for the drainage of Croom's-hill, London-street, Greenwich, were received. The estimate of the surveyor was 796*l.* 2s. There were two parties who offered tenders, Mr. Hill and Mr. Denton. The latter's tender amounted to 671*l.*; that of Mr. Hill was 378*l.* higher. Mr. Denton's was accepted. Orders for the filling up of a filthy place called Bunker's Pond were then given, and several applications, memorials, communications, and reports were read and considered.

THE ANTWERP "BOURSE."—The *Art-Journal* says:—By command of the municipality, the principal architect of the city has been requested to offer a plan for covering the area of the "Bourse" with a roof. This has accordingly been prepared, and the design has been engraved and published. The idea is of a cast-iron frame-work to a splendid dome, filled with glass. The architectural forms of the iron-work are analagous to the mediæval character of the Bourse, which is known to have been the original model of the Royal Exchange, built by Sir Thomas Gresham, in the city of London. The design bears a considerable degree of beauty, and is evidently the offspring of our Crystal Palace. The estimate for this proposed addition to the Bourse was 16,000*l.* and was about being adopted, when the architect sent in a new estimate for the entire re-erection of the edifice at an expense of more than 40,000*l.* proposing to replace the various sculptured columns of the arcade by similar ones in cast iron, and erecting on them an entirely new building; therefore the intention is for the present abandoned, on account of the great cost.

A GOODLY PLANK.—The *Emigrant* arrived at Portsmouth lately with a gumwood-tree plank, from New Zealand, 144½ feet long, 19 feet broad at the narrow end, 6 inches thick, and perfect throughout.

BRASS TUBING.—Mr. C. Green, of Birmingham, has patented some improvements having reference to the manufacture of brass tubes, made without seam or joint, for boilers, &c. It appears to be mainly in peculiar annealing processes that the improvements consist. By these means a tube is said to be produced stiff, strong, and smooth on the outside, and which, by acting as a stay to the boiler in which it is introduced, contributes materially to its durability and power of resisting internal pressure of steam.

CHESTER BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.—From the opening of this establishment on 21st June, 1849, to 21st June, 1851, ioclusive, according to the *Chester Chronicle*, there had been taken 35,515 swimming baths; and from 23rd June, 1851, to 27th March last inclusive, 9,562—making a total of 45,077 without accident. Of shower baths there have been taken during same periods 1,302; and of vapour baths (provided in August last) 218. There have been at same time 8,422 washers accommodated at the public wash-house. But this latter department has been closed by the town council. 220 of the citizens subscribed 1,190*l.* for the erection of these baths. The establishment, however, is incomplete without private baths for females. Most of the baths hitherto taken were penny ones.

TENDERS

Received for rebuilding Culham Church, Oxon, by Mr. Joseph Clarke, on Quantities prepared by Mr. E. Yeldham.

	Church.	Chancel.	Total.
Castle	£1,689 5 3	£519 6 4	£2,208 11 7
Wyatt	1,067 0 0	302 0 0	1,369 0 0
Hook	1,000 0 0	280 0 0	1,280 0 0
White	1,540 0 0	510 0 0	2,050 0 0
Thomas	1,234 0 0	470 0 0	1,704 0 0
Rigby	1,617 0 0	461 0 0	2,078 0 0
Plowman	1,136 0 0	453 0 0	1,589 0 0

For a new Baptist Chapel, for the Rev. Wm. G. Lewis, Kensington; Mr. Searle, Architect.

Bird, Hammersmith	£4,180
Cowland	3,700
Locke and Nesham	3,680
Simons and Robinson (accepted)	3,230

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"T. P. W." (under our mark), "P. P." (ditto), "T. and C." (ditto), "M. W.," "J. H. C.," "W. H. V. S.," "H. W.," "G. W." (we must decline advising in private disputes unless applied to professionally), "E. S. N." (ditto), "E. K." (we inserted a similar statement some time ago), "Quondam," "M. A. A." (will appear), "M. S. B." (ditto), "T. T.," "J. B. D.," "B. D.," "Pan," "M. J. B.," "An Insurance Clerk," "J. W.," "H. T. E.," "E. A.," "A. H. P.," "W. A." (will appear), "S. and W.," "Messrs. W. and D.," "J. C.," "E. W.," "X. Y." (the Bank of England covers, we believe, about 4 acres).

"*Books and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

NOTICE.—All communications respecting *advertisements* should be addressed to the "Publisher," and not to the "Editor:" all other communications should be addressed to the EDITOR, and *not* to the Publisher.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS, Incorporated 7th William IV.
16, Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square, London.

At the Ordinary General Meeting, held on Monday, 22nd March, 1852, the following Recommendations of the Council with reference to the Medals for the year 1852, were read and agreed to:—

ROYAL MEDAL.

Her Majesty having been pleased to grant her gracious permission for the Royal Medal to be conferred on such distinguished Architect or Man of Science, of any Country, as may have designed or executed any building of high merit, or produced a work tending to promote or facilitate the knowledge of Architecture, or the various branches of Science connected therewith.

That the Royal Medal for this year be awarded to such Architect, of any Country, as may have executed any building of high merit.

That the Council do proceed in January, 1853, to take into consideration the appropriation of the Royal Medal accordingly.

INSTITUTE MEDAL.

That the Silver Medals of the Institute be awarded to the Authors of the best Essays on any of the following subjects:—

1. On the Introduction of Colour, including Paintings in Fresco, to promote or heighten the effect of Architectural Compositions generally.
2. On the Use of Bricks (now that the manufacture is unrestricted by law) in respect to utility, durability, and economy, as well as for the purpose of producing ornamental details in the various styles of Architecture; with Suggestions as to the Improvement of their present Manufacture in connection with any of these qualities.
3. On the various Kinds of Construction of Walls as influenced by local circumstances and the materials most readily available.
4. On the advantage to Architecture which has resulted, and what further advantage may be derived, from the use of Iron, both as to construction and embellishment.

Essays on any other subjects connected with Architecture, besides the above, that may be submitted, will also be entertained and considered by the Council.

The Essays to be accompanied by suitable Illustrations.

N.B. Each Essay to be written in a clear and distinct hand, on alternate pages.

SOANE MEDALLION.

That the Soane Medallion be awarded for the best design among those sent in for any of the following subjects:—

A Metropolitan Railway Station for a Main Line on the Ground Level; a General Cemetery; or a Town Hall for a large Municipality.

The Buildings respectively to be adapted for an isolated position. The plans, elevations, and sections of the buildings to be drawn to a scale of ⅛ of an inch to a foot. Perspective views, and such other drawings to a larger scale as the Candidate may consider necessary for the perfect development of his design. The drawings to be tinted with Indian ink or sepia.

The successful Competitor, if he go abroad, will be entitled to the sum of 50*l.* at the end of one year's absence, on sending satisfactory evidence of his progress and his studies.

N.B. The competition for the Soane Medallion is open to all Members of the Profession under the age of 30 years.

Each Drawing to be delivered at the Rooms of the Institute, on or before the 31st of December, 1852, by 12 o'clock at noon.

Each Essay and set of Drawings to be numbered and have a motto.

Further directions and information may be had on application to the Secretaries, by letter, prepaid.

J. J. SCOLES, C. C. NELSON, } Honorary Secretaries.

To learn how to use PDF Compression and OCR visit ThePaperlessOffice.org